2007-05378/

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Ontario Women's Directorate

NEWSRELEASE

November 28, 2005

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT HOSTS MAJOR CONFERENCE ON REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Experts, Professionals And Front-line Workers Meet To Share Ideas And Discuss Solutions

TORONTO – The Ontario government's conference on reducing domestic violence, Finding Common Ground, begins tonight with a keynote address from Gloria Steinem and the screening of Deepa Mehta's documentary, Let's Talk About It, Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, announced today.

"I am pleased that experts, professionals and front-line workers will have the opportunity to work toward our common goal of reducing violence against women by learning from colleagues in Ontario and from places such as Australia, San Diego and Washington," said Pupatello. "Due to overwhelming demand, the conference is sold out, so we have set up a webcast to make sure everyone is included."

The conference is a key component of the McGuinty government's comprehensive four-year, $66 million Domestic Violence Action Plan. It features over 70 presentations on the role community service agencies, women's organizations, police, educators, Crown attorneys and health care workers can play in helping to reduce domestic violence.

Pupatello, Attorney General Michael Bryant and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs Madeleine Meilleur will speak on November 29, addressing the importance of all sectors working together.

The conference takes place at the Marriot Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel in Toronto from November 28 to 30, 2005. The conference program and webcast are available at: www.findingcommonground.ca.

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L to R: Writer and activist Gloria Steinem, CBC television host Suhana Meharchand, and filmmaker Deepa Mehta join Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, on the opening night of the Finding Common Ground conference.

L to R: Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, and Gloria Steinem

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